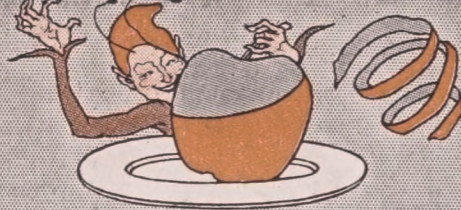


# The Pixie-in-the-House



Laura Rountree Smith



Class PZ 8

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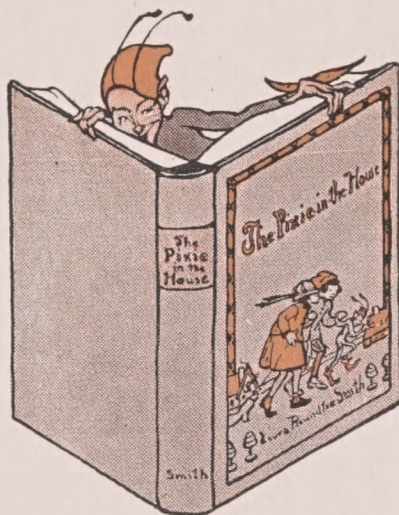






## **The Pixie in the House**





*This Book Belongs to*

.....



*There was a Pixie in the house*

# The Pixie in the House

by

Laura Rountree Smith

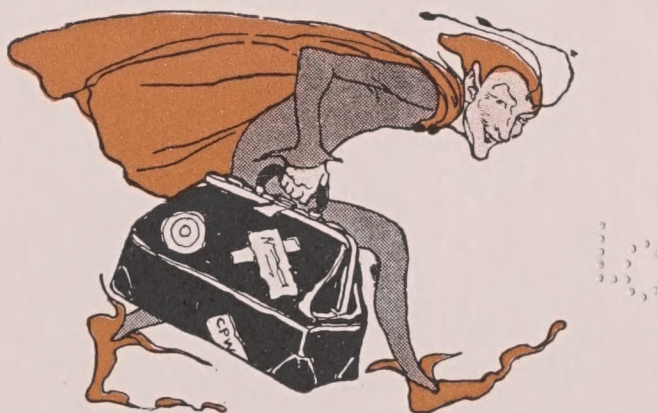
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## **The Pixie in the House**



# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

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## CHAPTER I

If you ever meet a Pixie  
At the dawn of day,  
Merry little lads and lassies,  
Tell me what you'll say;  
Pixie is a cunning fellow,  
But he's very shy,  
And I do not think you'll catch him,  
Even though you try!

THE children came hurrying home from school. They left their books and caps and dinner pails in the hall, and scampered off to play.

The Little Mother came into the hall and said, "Oh dear, what shall I do to make the children pick up their things?"

There stood four dinner pails in a row! There were books and caps and pencils on the sofa! Just then the children came running in and the Little Mother said, "Hurry, children, hurry, pick up your dinner pails or the Pixie will get them!"

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

“Ho! ho! I don’t believe in Pixies,” said Fred.

“I believe in them,” said Jack and Jill together.

Little Mary said, “What is a Pixie?”

The Little Mother said, “A Pixie is a kind, jolly fairy, and he likes good children who pick up their things and obey.”

The children laughed and picked up their things.

The next night when the children came in from school they forgot and left their things in the hall as before.

They went off to play.

*Then the most surprising thing happened!*

There *was* a Pixie in the house and he liked to help the Little Mother.

The Pixie peeped out from his hiding-place and said, “I see Jack’s cap and Mary’s pencil, and I see Jill’s hair ribbon, and Fred’s knife, and I want them all!”

What do you suppose that comical little Pixie did next?

He just went back to his home in the garret and fell asleep!

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

He said to himself, "I will teach the children a lesson by and by."

That night all the children went to bed early, for they were tired.

Jack and Jill slept in the same room. Mary slept with the Little Mother, and Fred slept in a room across the hall.

Suddenly Jill sat up in bed and cried out, "What is that?"

Then Jack sat up and listened, too.

They heard the patter, patter, patter of little feet.

"Maybe it is a Pixie," said Jack; "Maybe it is," said Jill.

Fred heard the children talking and heard the patter of little feet too, and he said, "Why doesn't someone shut up the old cat?"

Fred went into the hall. He heard again the patter of little feet, and he caught sight of something brown moving rapidly away.

"I had a narrow escape that time," said the Pixie to himself as he hid behind a sofa.

Fred went down cellar. There was the old cat asleep in her box.

"I was fooled that time," said Fred.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

He went back to bed.

Next morning after breakfast the children were getting ready for school.

Jack said, "I can't find my cap!"

Jill said, "Where is my red hair ribbon?"

Mary said, "I have lost my pencil!"

Fred said, "Have any of you children seen my knife?"

My! what a time they had as they ran about the house looking for their things!

They said, "We will all be late to school!"

Then the Little Mother found an old cap for Jack, and a new hair ribbon for Jill, and she gave Mary a penny to buy another pencil.

Fred had gone by that time.

He said, "I will have to borrow a knife today."

The Little Mother said, "I wonder where the children lost their things!"

*The Pixie knew!*

What do you suppose the Pixie knew about it?

Late the night before he crept out of his hiding place.

He took the cap and tugged and pulled

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



with all his might. He worked until he got it up into the garret.

Then he found the hair ribbon and tied it about his waist!

"This will make a fine sash," he said.

He had a hard time with the knife; it was so heavy and he was such a little fellow!

When he spied the pencil he set up a shout!

"Ha! ha! ha! ha!" he cried, and he rubbed his fat little hands together.

"It is just what I have been looking for for a whole week," he said.

Then the Pixie took the pencil across his shoulder and toiled upstairs.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

He had three other pencils and for a long time he worked away.

What do you suppose the Pixie was doing?

He was making a bedstead for himself!

“It will be a four-poster,” he said.

He worked in the moonlight and sang merrily all to himself.

He sang to the tune of “Little Brown Jug”:

The little Pixie lives alone,  
In a little wee house he calls his own;  
When he wants things he helps himself,  
He is a very jolly elf!

Ha! ha! ha! don't you see  
I'm as happy as can be;  
Ha! ha! ha! don't you see?  
I am safe, you can't catch me!

# *THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE*



*"Perhaps there is a Pixie in the House"*

## CHAPTER II

“**I** WONDER if there is a Pixie in the house,” said Fred next day. “I don’t see where my knife can be.”

“Where is my hair ribbon?” asked Jill, “and my cap,” said Jack, “and my pencil,” said Mary.

The Little Mother shook her head and said with a smile, “I lost a spool of silk yesterday.”

Then the children all began to talk together.

They said, “Did you truly, Mother? Did you lose a spool of silk? Do you think the Pixie took it? Where can the Pixie hide?”

The Little Mother laughed and said, “Perhaps there is a Pixie in the house; perhaps he lives in the garret or the cellar.”

The children ran merrily off to school.

At recess, Jill went to her seat crying, and the teacher said, “What is the matter, Jill?”

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Jill said, "The children say my cheeks are so fat. They made fun of me!"

The teacher looked at Jill, and sure enough her cheeks were swollen.

"Have you toothache?" asked the teacher kindly.

Jill shook her head sadly and the teacher let her go home.

When the other children got in from school the Little Mother said, "Jill has the mumps, and I have put her in the little room upstairs by the garret stairway."

"Oh, oh, oh, let me go up," said Jack.

"Oh, oh, oh, oh, let me get the mumps, too," said Mary.

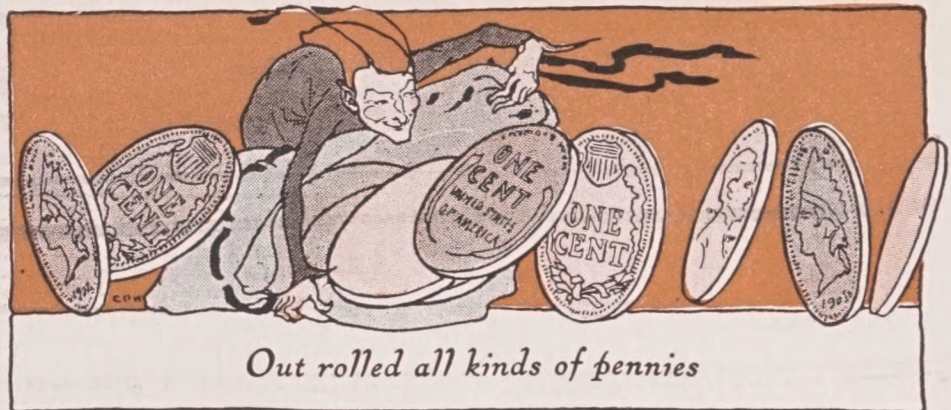
Fred said, "You little goosies, then you would have to stay at home from school!"

So it happened that Jill laid all by herself in her little bed and she was lonesome.

By and by all the children went back to school for the afternoon, and of course the Pixie thought that Jill had gone, too.

He liked to come out from the garret and run about and stretch his little legs.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



Jill was just wishing something would happen, when the door opened a crack and the Pixie peeped in.

He was so surprised to see Jill in bed, that he dropped a little bag he had under his arm, and he would have run away I am sure if Jill had not said, "I am so lonesome, please come in, Sir!"

Then the Pixie made a deep bow and said, "By your leave, Madam."

He screwed his little old face up into a thousand wrinkles, and he came into the room, and began to hop about in the funniest way you ever saw.

Jill laughed until she cried, then suddenly the Pixie said, "Hi! ho! I forgot my money bag!"

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

He ran into the hall where he had left his money bag after he had first seen Jill.

The Pixie sat down on the floor and opened the money bag. Out rolled dark pennies and light pennies and old pennies and new pennies and all kinds of pennies.

The Pixie winked his eye and said, "Don't you interrupt while I count: One, two, five, seven, three, nine—"

"That is not the way to count," said Jill; "you get it all mixed up."

Then the Pixie began again:

One, two, bright and new,  
Three, four, plenty more,  
Five, six, do not mix,  
Seven, eight, pile them straight,  
Twelve, nine, how they shine.

"No, no," cried Jill, "you left out nine, and then put it in the wrong place!"

Then the Pixie turned a somersault.

"Of course, I left out nine," he shouted. "To tell you the truth *I don't like nine!*"

"Let me count for you," said Jill, and she started to count while the Pixie put the shining pennies in piles.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

When Jill said "nine" the Pixie shook his fist at her fiercely. "I won't have nine, I tell you, I don't like nine," he said.

Then Jill laughed until she cried.

"Never mind," said the Pixie, "it always goes like this; I can't count straight to save my life."

"What are you going to do with all those pennies?" asked Jill.

The Pixie laid one finger on the side of his nose and said:

What do you suppose?  
Old Santa Claus knows,  
Old Santa Claus knows.

"Are you saving them to buy Christmas presents?" asked Jill.

The Pixie nodded, "I am going to buy a rabbit for Mary," he said, but he got no farther, for just then he heard a step in the hall below.

He gathered up all the pennies and put them back into his money bag in a hurry.

Then he tucked his money bag under his arm and hid in the closet.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

He left the closet door a crack open!

The Little Mother came in to ask Jill how she felt.

The Little Mother drew down the shade and told Jill she had better go to sleep. Then she went quietly down stairs.

"I don't want to go to sleep," said Jill.

Just then the Pixie peeped out from the closet and said, "Little folks should always mind, I will leave you a penny if you go to sleep right away!"

"Will you come back again tomorrow?" asked Jill.

The Pixie nodded, he slipped a bright penny under her pillow, and was gone in less than no time.

Then Jill fell asleep.

Next morning she woke up and thought about the Pixie.

She wondered if it was all a dream, or if there really was a Pixie in the house.

She felt under her pillow.

There was a round, shining penny.

"I wonder if the Pixie will come today," she said.

# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



*Making Jack-o'-Lanterns*

### CHAPTER III

IT was the last night of October, and the children were busy after school. They were making jack-o'-lanterns.

They had four large pumpkins.

Fred was taking the inside of the pumpkins out.

He was fixing them with his new knife.

"How will you make eyes and nose?" asked Jill.

Ha! ha! ha! it is a trick,  
Better stop and answer quick,

cried some one. The children looked about, they could see no one in the woodshed.

"Some one did speak," said Jack and Jill together.

Mary said, "Where are the candles for our jack-o'-lanterns?"

The children said, "Oh, dear, we forgot the candles!"

"Who will buy the candles?" asked Fred.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

"We will go," said Jack and Jill, "we will get them at the grocer's."

Jack said, "Let me carry your pennies."

Jill said, "No, thank you, I will carry my own pennies."

They went along with a hop and a skip and a jump," until they came to the grocer's.

Jill said, "Oh, oh, oh, I have lost two of my pennies."

Jack whispered, "Where is the penny that the Pixie gave you?"

Jill unfastened her coat and looked in an inside pocket for the penny the Pixie had given her.

There, safe and sound, was the penny.

"Let me see," said Jack, "between us, we lost one, two, three, four, five, six, seven pennies. We had better go back and look for them."

*Then the funniest thing happened!*

The penny that Jill held rolled right out of her hand and seven other pennies came rolling after it!

"Count again," said Jill, clapping her hands.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Jack counted again, and seven more pennies came rolling along.

"Let us pick them all up," said Jack.

So they picked up the pennies and put them in their pockets. But Jill kept the Pixie's penny held fast in her hand.

They went into the grocery store.

The grocer counted out four candles.

The children handed him some pennies.

"Those are not real pennies," he said.

Then Jill began to cry, and Jack said they really must have the candles, and that they had lost their pennies on the way. He said they needed the candles for their jack-o'-lanterns.

Then the grocer laughed until his sides ached, and he said, "Never mind, I have some nice little Christmas candles I will give you, and you keep those funny looking pennies."

He counted out this time two red candles and two yellow candles, and he gave them to Jack and Jill.

The fourteen pennies the children had laid on the counter began to dance. They rolled off the counter on to the floor.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

The grocer said, "It must be a Hallowe'en joke."

A little laugh was heard and a voice cried:

Ha! ha! ho! ho! It may be so,  
But how could a big, fat grocer know?

The grocer laughed again and the children ran home.

Fred had the jack-o'-lanterns all ready.

He had cut out wonderful eyes and mouth and nose for each of them.

The jack-o'-lanterns were all ready for the candles.

They put the candles inside.

Fred struck a match and it went out; he struck another match and it went out. He tried again, and again, and every time the matches went out.

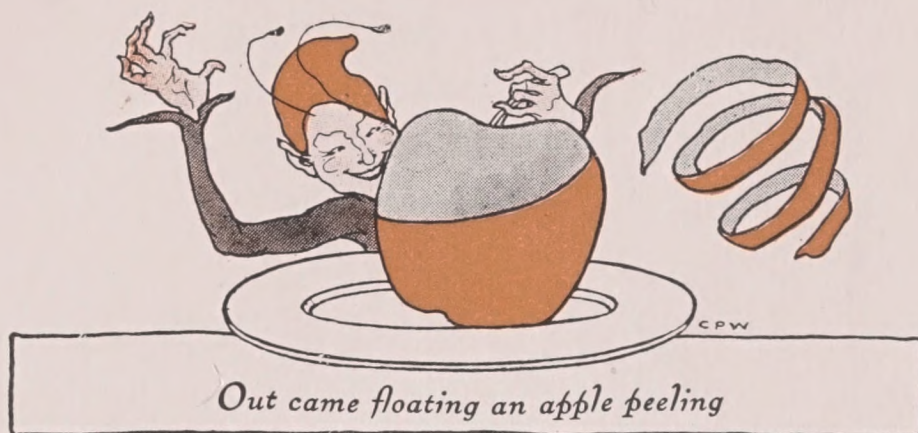
"These are funny matches not to stay lit," said Fred, and someone laughed, and cried:

Come feed me now, it is my turn,  
Then the matches all will burn!

"It is the Pixie," said the children.

Fred said, "I don't believe in the Pixie, but ask him what he wants!"

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



“What do you want, Pixie, dear?” asked Jill. A thin little voice answered:

Oh apples and spice  
And everything nice!

Now, what do you suppose Jack and Jill did? They got a cunning little table, and put on it a nice white cloth. They put on it a knife and plate and spoon.

Then they got an apple and a cookie for the Pixie. Then the Pixie called:

Please go away, the Pixie is shy,  
And don't you speak, or wink an eye!

The children all ran out of the woodshed, and in a few minutes out came floating an apple-peeling, which curled around in the funniest way.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

"I guess the Pixie is done," the twins said. They looked in the woodshed and the apple and cookie were gone.

Fred said, "Now, I hope the Pixie is satisfied."

Then the Pixie answered:

Supper was good, but how do you think,  
A Pixie can live with nothing to drink?

Then the children got a tin cup of water and put it out under the haystack.

This time they lit their candles and all went well.

"I don't believe in the Pixie," said Fred. "Someone was just fooling us!"

The children all went in to supper.

The Pixie came out and got his cup of water.

"I will teach Fred a lesson or two," said he. Then the Pixie said a few magic words and he hopped inside one of the jack-o'-lanterns, and drew a yellow cloak about him.

After supper Fred gave the children their jack-o'-lanterns and started toward his own. He was going to pick it up, when it began

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

to walk about. It jumped right on top of the haystack; then it jumped down, and began to follow Fred.

The funny jack-o'-lantern chased him down the walk and out into the road!

The children all ran after to see the fun.

Then a thin voice piped out:

You don't think I'm a Pixie, alas! alack!

Ha! ha! come Fred and take that back!

Then the Pixie jumped out of the jack-o'-lantern and jumped on top of it for a few seconds and disappeared.

"I guess I will have to believe in the Pixie," Fred said.

He went to pick up his jack-o'-lantern, but it fell to pieces in his hands!

Then he heard a voice say:

Ha! ha! ha! go back and play,

You'll learn some new thing every day!

The children laughed and ran about.

They put one jack-o'-lantern on a post.

They put one on the kitchen window sill.

They put one on top of the pump.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

When at last they went to bed, and Fred went into his room, he set up a shout.

All the children came running in to see what was the matter.

His bed was all tumbled up.

His pillows were standing on end!

All the clothes from his closet were piled on the chairs.

The children shouted, "The Pixie has been here." They made such a noise that the Little Mother came up to see what was the matter.

She said, "Never mind, we will all help put the room in order," and they all did help.

Late that night Fred had a funny dream.

He thought a jack-o'-lantern looked in at his window and said:

Pixie works till set of sun,  
So he has to have some fun,  
Late at night on Hallowe'en,  
Fairies come up o'er the green,  
You must believe these things are true,  
Or Pixie'll play a trick on you!

Fred rubbed his eyes, he woke up and it was morning!

## CHAPTER IV

AUNT Rachel was making pies for Thanksgiving.

Aunt Rachel was the old, colored Mammy. She was making mince pies and apple pies. She was making big pies and little pies. She hummed a song as she worked. The refrain of the song was this:

Put one for Pixie on the shelf,  
So he may come and help himself!

Just at this very minute Jill stuck her head in the door.

"Do you really believe in a Pixie?" she said.

Aunt Rachel said, "Help me roll out this pie crust for a little pie, and honey I'll tell you all I know about a Pixie. Why honey, chile, I knowed about a Pixie befo' you was born!"

Jill took a seat on a high stool and began to roll out a very little pie.

# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



*"I knowed about a Pixie befo' you was born"*

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

"It happened long ago, when I was a chile, like you," began Aunt Rachel.

"One day I asked to help make pies, and my mammy said, 'Wash yo' hands, chile, and yo' can help.' So I washed my hands and put on a clean apron, and my mammy and I made some pies.

"I said, 'Ain't we going to make some little pies, too?'

"My mammy said, 'What for should we make little pies? Are there any more children in the house?'

"I said, 'Perhaps Pixie would like one?'

"Then my mammy said, 'You clear out of this place, there is no Pixie in this house.'

"Next morning early, when mammy went to work, she gave a cry, and what do you suppose was the matter?

"All the pies but one were gone, and that pie had the track of little feet across it, just as plain as could be!

"Mammy said, 'It was the black cat,' but the pies were gone, plate and all!"

"Have you made a little pie for the Pixie ever since?" asked Jill.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Aunt Rachel nodded, and said, "Roll out the pie crust very thin, for Pixie is mighty particular what he eats."

Soon the little pie was done and slipped into the oven.

"Does he always eat his own pie?" asked Jill.

Aunt Rachel said, "Sometimes he do, honey, and sometimes he do not, but he leaves my big pies alone!"

Then Aunt Rachel went about her work singing again a song about the Pixie with the refrain,

Put one for Pixie on the shelf  
Or he may come and help himself.

Jill ran out to tell the story to Jack, but she could not find Jack anywhere.

Fred said he thought Jack had gone to look for her.

Then Jill sat down and told about the Pixie and the pies.

Fred did not answer a word; he just sat still and whistled.

"You do believe in the Pixie since Hal-

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

lowe'en, don't you?" asked Jill with a twinkle in her eyes.

"No, I don't," said Fred. "That was just a Hallowe'en trick, I guess, as anybody may have upset my room."

Just then a low whistle was heard.

The children looked about but could see no one.

"Did you find your knife?" asked Jill.

Fred shook his head.

Just then that funny little whistle was heard again.

"I found my hair ribbon," said Jill.

Just then Jack came in the gate.

"I have something to tell Jill," he said.

Jack and Jill went off together.

Jack said he had taken a long walk down the road and had found a funny little log house.

There were six children playing about the house and one of them asked Jill for something to eat.

"Let us tell Mamma," said Jill. So they went in search of the Little Mother.

The Little Mother was sewing.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



She was making some new clothes for Jack and Jill.

“Please, Mother, let us take them a basket of food on Thanksgiving,” said Jill.

The Little Mother said, “You don’t need to wait for Thanksgiving; you may take them a pail of the nice fresh milk and some cookies tonight.”

After supper Jack and Jill took a pail of milk and a bag of cookies, and started down the road.

“Don’t bring any children back with you,” said Fred. “We don’t want to be like the *Old Woman in the Shoe*.”

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Fred loved to tease the twins. As they did not answer he called again, more loudly:

Jack and Jill went down the hill,  
To fetch a pail of water.

Jack and Jill did not hear him this time.  
They had gone down the road beyond the turn.

When they reached the little log house there were no children playing outside, so Jack and Jill went up to the door and knocked.

A voice said, "Come in," and Jack and Jill went inside.

A woman sat in a chair holding a new baby.  
It was a very new baby, indeed.

It had a turned-up nose and a red skin.

Jill said, "What a lovely, wee, baby!"

The children all crowded about Jack and Jill, and they all talked at once. They said, "What have you got in the pail?" "What have you got in the bag?" "What is your name, and your's," pointing to Jack and Jill.

Jill said they had brought a pail of milk and cookies. The woman said, "Thank you."

Then they went homeward.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

“Do you think that was a pretty baby?” asked Jack.

Jill said, “I think it was cuter than a doll.”

They said, “We will tell the Little Mother how poor that family is; maybe we can take them something else.”

Jill suddenly stopped still in the road.

“What is the matter?” asked Jack.

Jill said, “I have a new story to tell you.”

Then she told Aunt Rachel’s story to Jack.

She always told everything to Jack.

Then Jack laughed and clapped his hands.

He said, “Let us make up a song of our own about the Pixie.”

They made up this merry little song:

The Pixie is a merry elf,  
He likes to go and help himself;  
Pixies all delight to play,  
But at dawn they hide away.

Then Jack and Jill both stopped still.

Some one was softly whistling the tune they had sung.

“It must be the Pixie himself,” said Jack.

Jill laughed and they ran merrily home.

## CHAPTER V

NEXT morning when Jack and Jill woke up it was very early.

Jack said, "Are you awake, Jill?"

Jill said, "I am awake, and I have been thinking."

"What were you thinking about?" asked Jack.

Jill said, "I was thinking about the children in the log house, and particularly about the new baby."

Jack said, "I was thinking about the children, too."

Jill said, "I wish I had another penny like the one the Pixie gave me."

Jack said, "If we had some pennies we could buy some things for the new baby."

Then the funniest thing happened; you never could guess what it was!

Jill slipped her hand under her pillow and brought out a big, new, shining penny!

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Then Jack felt under his pillow and brought out a new penny!

"Oh, oh," cried the children together. "The Pixie has been here; he has heard us talking!"

It was Saturday morning so the children did not have to go to school.

The Little Mother said at the breakfast table, "I want to make a visit at the log house today, if someone will show me the way!"

"I will show you the way," said Fred. "I want to go, too," said Mary.

Jack and Jill said nothing.

The Little Mother looked at Jack and Jill and said, "Don't you want to go to the log house, Jack and Jill?"

The twins squeezed each other's hands under the table and said, "If you please, we have other plans for the day!"

Fred said, "Does the Pixie know your plans?"

Then Jack and Jill laughed.

After breakfast Jack and Jill found their coats and caps and mittens and went to town.

"What do you suppose the twins are up to?" asked Fred.

# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



*Many interesting Things in the Window*

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

The Little Mother laughed and shook her head.

The twins knew their own business.

Now where do you suppose they were going?

They were going to the store with their new pennies to buy something for the new baby!

They talked as they went down the road hand in hand.

They wondered what the new baby would like.

"Perhaps she would like a cup and saucer," said Jill, "if we could find one small enough."

When they came to the store they stood outside and looked at the window.

There were so many interesting things in the window. There were toys and candy.

Jack suddenly spied a very small coat.

It was a baby's coat.

It was a pretty blue coat.

"I will buy the coat for the baby," said Jack.

Then Jill saw a blue hood.

"I will buy the blue hood," she said.

A funny little old woman kept the store.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

When Jack asked to buy the coat and Jill asked to buy the hood, the little old woman laughed.

She said, "Who will pay for the coat? Who will pay for the hood?"

Jack and Jill answered together, "We will."

Then the twins held out their pennies.

The little old woman said, "Those are not real pennies."

Then the most surprising thing happened.

An old gentleman who stood in the store came up and said, "Show me the pennies; they are very odd pennies." He looked hard at Jack and he looked hard at Jill. Then he said, "I will give each of you a silver dollar for those pennies if you promise me one thing!"

"What must we promise?" asked Jack.

The old gentleman said, "You may spend ninety-five cents on someone else, but you *must each spend five cents on yourselves.*"

The twins laughed, of course, and held out their pennies to the old gentleman.

He gave them each a round, shining dollar.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

The little old woman said, "What do you want of a baby coat and hood?"

Then the twins told the whole story about the poor children in the log house.

They said they loved the new baby best of all.

The old woman said two dollars would be pretty cheap for the coat and hood, but after all they had been in the window and were a little faded.

The twins said, "Two times ninety-five cents."

The old woman did up the coat and hood and the twins said to the old gentleman, "Please may we save our five-cent pieces and spend them tomorrow or next day?"

The old gentleman said, "It is all the same to me if you spend them on yourselves."

Then the twins went out of the store.

Jack said, "I wonder if those were the Pixie pennies?"

Jill said, "They were queer-looking pennies."

When the twins got home they found that the Little Mother and Fred and Mary had

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



been to the log house, and the Little Mother said that it was a poor place.

They all planned to take a basket of clothes to the log house on Thanksgiving Day.

Then Jack and Jill told their story.

When they had finished, the Little Mother kissed them both.

She said the new baby would look sweet in the blue coat and hood by and by.

Then Jack and Jill whispered something to each other.

I do not know what they said.

Perhaps the Pixie knew.

## CHAPTER VI

**J**ACK and Jill woke up next morning and sang a Thanksgiving song:

Glad Thanksgiving has come again,  
We'll merrily sing heigho!  
The sleigh bells ring with a merry sound,  
As over the ground we go,  
To grandpa's farm we speed away,  
We go to spend Thanksgiving Day,  
Who would not now be glad and gay,  
We merrily sing heigho!

Then they heard the jingle of sleigh bells.

"What is that?" said Jack.

"What is that?" said Jill.

"It sounds like a sleigh," said Jill.

Fred called in, "Perhaps it is the Pixie."

Little Mary woke up and said, "Oh, oh, oh, I wonder if it can be grandpa!"

Then, what do you suppose the children did?

They all got up and looked out of the window.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

There, sure enough, was grandpa in his big sleigh.

“Hurrah!” shouted the children.

“Hurry, hurry, and come with me,” cried grandpa.

Did the children dress fast, and did grandpa come in to breakfast? Well, I guess the answer is, “Yes.”

Grandpa said with a twinkle in his eye, “Who will go with me to the farm today?”

“I will!” “I will!” “I will!” shouted all the children together.

The Little Mother said, “What will we do with all our pies?”

“Bring the pies along,” said grandpa. “Put them in a basket.”

“Where is grandma?” asked the Little Mother.

Grandpa said that grandma had a crick in her back and was afraid of the cold.

Aunt Rachel looked in and said she had the dinner all started.

Grandpa said, “Never mind, we will take it with us.”

Then Aunt Rachel said she would go, too,

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

so grandma would not need to do any of the cooking.

Grandpa said, "The first child to get in my sleigh shall have a quarter, but, mind you, put on your rubbers and mittens and cap and coat first!"

Then there was a scramble for wraps, you may be sure.

The children laughed and cried out, "Where is my cap?" "Where are my mittens?" "Where are my rubbers?"

Who do you think was the first one in the sleigh?

Little Mary was first of all, and Fred was the last one to get in.

"Where is Fred?" the others cried when they were ready.

Fred was in the hall. He said, "I cannot find a single thing; I have lost my cap and coat and rubbers."

The children looked up stairs and they looked down stairs and they could not find Fred's things.

"Perhaps the Pixie could help us," said Jack.

# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



*Little Mary was the First*

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Then Jill ran up stairs to the door that led into the garret and said:

    Pixie dear, we want to ride,  
    Caps and mittens do not hide,  
    Pixie dear, make no delay,  
    For grandpa dear waits in his sleigh.

Then what do you suppose happened?  
The Pixie whispered through the keyhole:

    Close your eyes, count one, two, three,  
    Open them and then you'll see!  
    Caps and mittens I did hide,  
    But here they are now, side by side.

Jill did as she was told. She closed her eyes and counted, and then opened her eyes.

There were Fred's things lying beside her. She called Fred. He put on his wraps and whistled a merry tune.

"All ready," cried grandpa, and they tucked themselves in under the fur robe.

Away, away, away they rode, across the snowy roads to grandpa's farm.

The children laughed and sang and said, "We are so glad to have Thanksgiving come."

When they got to the farm grandma was so glad to see them that she forgot all about the

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

crick in her back, and came running out to kiss them all.

The dog and the cat came out to meet them, too.

Such a great hugging and kissing went on.

Then grandpa said, "Take out the baskets; everyone help carry the baskets."

Sure enough, the sleigh was loaded with baskets.

All sorts of good things were in them.

One basket stuck tight to the bottom of the sleigh.

It would not come out!

Grandpa and Fred could not get it out.

"It must be frozen down," said grandpa.

Rachel went to get a hatchet to cut the basket out.

The children danced about the sleigh and said, "Maybe the Pixie is in the basket."

Then they ran after Rachel to help her find a hatchet.

When they came back the basket was open on the ground.

"That is the most peculiar thing I ever saw," said Aunt Rachel.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



*Such fun roasting apples and nuts*

“It was the Pixie,” called the children and they went laughing and dancing into the house.

Such a fine dinner they had, and such fun they had all day, roasting apples and nuts.

When it was evening grandpa said, “Now pile into the sleigh, for I must take you home again.”

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

All would have gone well, I am sure, if Fred could have found his cap and mittens.

It was very cold, and he could not go without his cap and mittens.

They searched about the house, and at last grandma said, "Never mind, Fred shall stay here all night."

"Maybe the Pixie took Fred's cap and mittens," said Mary.

"I don't believe in Pixie at all," said Fred.

Then Jack and Jill laughed.

On the way home the children sang songs.

The Little Mother said, "I don't see why Fred is the one who always loses his things."

Jack and Jill looked at each other and nodded.

They thought that the Pixie knew.

When they arrived home they kissed grandpa good-bye and said, "Do come for us again, Grandpa; we have had a happy Thanksgiving Day."

Where do you suppose the Pixie was?

He was cuddled up in a basket in the back of the sleigh, fast asleep!

## CHAPTER VII

Merry Christmas comes, you know,  
Ting-a-ling, a-ling,  
Santa rides across the snow,  
Ting-a-ling, a-ling,  
Pixie's going now because,  
He must help old Santa Claus.

THE Pixie whistled and sang and ran about in the garret. Suddenly he stopped before a big calendar and he whistled another tune.

Then he clapped his hands and gleefully shouted, "Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah! It is the first of December and I must go to help Santa Claus in his workshop! Ha! ha! I must pack my little bag!"

You would have laughed to see the Pixie pack his little bag.

He put a cap and some string and an old red handkerchief into the bag, and he crept quietly down stairs.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

“I wonder if the children will miss me?” he said.

Then he suddenly had an idea.

He turned three somersaults and went to a box in the corner where he hid the children’s things.

He pulled out Fred’s cap and mittens.

Then he crept along the hall.

My, how the boards in that house did creak.

He put the cap and mittens in Fred’s closet, and was just coming out himself, when he heard Jack and Jill talking.

Jack said, “I do not know what to do with the baby’s blue coat now.”

Jill said, “I do not know what to do with the baby’s blue hood now.”

What do you suppose had happened to make the twins talk this way?

The poor family had moved out of the house on Thanksgiving Day and the door was fastened.

“We might save the things for someone for Christmas,” said Jack.

Just then the Little Mother called, “Come, Jack; come, Jill; come help Mother?”

# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



*Riding Away to the Post-Office*

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Then Jill ran down stairs and helped Mother wash dishes and Jack ran down stairs and brought in wood, and they were just as busy as could be.

The Pixie said, "I can get out of this closet and go on all the way down stairs safely now. Bless my heart, how I do love the twins; I will ask Santa Claus to send them some nice gifts.

Just then Jack set down the wood basket and shouted, "See who is coming!"

Fred was riding up the road on grandpa's very oldest white horse.

"Did you find your mittens?" shouted Jill.

"Give me a ride, too," shouted Jack.

So Fred put Jack on behind and Jill on in front and they went riding away to the post-office.

They stopped at the post-office to see if there was any mail.

There were two letters for the Little Mother. Jack held one and Jill held one.

When they got home the Little Mother read the letters.

One was from their big, fat daddy, and he said he was coming home on Christmas Day!

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

One was from Aunt Lucy who was ill.

The Little Mother said, "Hurry, hurry, children, help me get off to see Aunt Lucy today."

The Pixie seemed to know something unusual was going on, for he had gotten only as far as the garden when he decided to go back up into the garret for a while.

Fred said, "I will bring down the trunk from the garret, Mother."

"Let me help pack it," said Jack.

"Let me help, too," said Jill.

So all the children went hurrying up to the garret.

The Pixie had just time to crawl into one of the boxes where he hid things when the children came in.

It was very dark in the garret.

"I will play a trick on Fred," thought the Pixie.

The Pixie buzzed like a fly.

"What a noisy fly," thought Fred.

Then that comical little Pixie meowed like a cat and barked like a dog and whinnied like a horse.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Fred was so excited he could not stand still. The Little Mother said, "Hurry, hurry, children or I will miss my train!"

At last everything was packed ready, and the children all rode in the bus to see the Little Mother off.

"Will you be home tomorrow or next day?" asked Jack .

The Little Mother said she would be home next week.

She whispered something to Jack and Jill as she said good-bye. I think it was something about the Pixie.

*The next day everything went wrong!*

The cook was cross, the children were late to school, the house was very lonesome, and finally at night Jack and Jill cried themselves to sleep.

They had not been asleep long when the light from a tiny little lantern wakened them.

"What's that?" said Jack.

"What's that?" cried Jill.

There stood the Pixie in the doorway.

"Scamper into your clothes and come with me as quickly as you can," he said.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

The children dressed by the light of the Pixie's little lantern.

Then they followed the Pixie out of the house and down the road.

"Where are we going?" asked Jack.

The Pixie winked his eye and said,

Fiddle-de-de, you can't catch me  
With just plain questions, don't you see?

They went on until they came to the little log house. A light was shining in the window.

"We can't get in; the house is locked," said Jack.

Then the Pixie said,

Little fellow, wait and see,  
The Pixie has a magic key.

Then the Pixie felt in his pocket for the key. Sure enough, it was there. It fitted in the lock and they went inside.

"Oh," said Jack. "Ah," said Jill.

The Pixie said,

Ha, ha, ha, come with me,  
Come and drink a little tea.

There in the middle of the floor stood a tea table with three little chairs around it.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



On the table was a fine supper.

When they began to eat their supper the Pixie said, "I'll tell you a secret; I am going to help Santa Claus!"

"Oh, oh, oh, tell us about it!" cried the twins.

Then the Pixie told them a wonderful story about Santa Claus' workshop. Even as he talked they heard the jingle of sleigh bells.

"Will Santa Claus come?" asked Jack.

"Will he come in his sleigh?" asked Jill.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

The Pixie lowered his voice to a whisper.  
He said,

Jack and Jill, wait and see,  
Then you'll know who comes for me!

The sleigh dashed by the house this time,  
then another passed, and another.

The Pixie stood on his head and remarked,  
“Hi! ho! Old Santa is late.”

Then he ran to a crack in the wall, and took  
out a little red box.

“Put in your hand, Jack,” he said; “put in  
your hand, Jill.”

The twins did as they were told and each  
one drew out a tiny key from the box.

“What are the keys for?” they asked to-  
gether.

The Pixie then did the funniest thing.  
*Without a word of good-bye he whisked up the  
chimney!* When he got up to the roof he  
called down the chimney,

Try them often; you will see  
You each hold a magic key.

Then the children could hear sleigh bells  
way off in the distance. They said, “It is

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Santa Claus; he is coming for our dear little Pixie."

The sleigh stopped, and in a few minutes went on.

Jack said, "Come, Jill, we must go home."

They opened the door. What was their surprise to see the Pixie sitting on the doorstep!

"Why did you go on up the chimney?" asked Jack.

"Why didn't you go off with Santa Claus?" asked Jill.

"Oh, that was just for exercise," said the Pixie. "Now home and to bed; be quick," he said. So the Pixie took hold of the children's hands and raced them home as fast as they could go.

"Put your keys under your pillow," whispered the Pixie, and he was gone.

Next morning the children tied ribbons to their keys and put them round their necks. They searched for the Pixie, but he was gone.

Fred came down late to breakfast.

"Did you find your cap and mittens?" asked the twins.

Fred shook his head!

## CHAPTER VIII

THE Little Mother came home with all kinds of packages and bundles. Everyone in the house went down town, and everyone came home with packages.

Jack and Jill were so busy planning what they would put in the toe of mamma's stocking that they quite forgot about their magic keys.

The next day school was out and the children had a week's holiday because Christmas was coming. Jack and Jill went sliding down hill. Suddenly they both heard a great buzzing.

"What is that?" said Jill.

They heard the buzzing sound again and again. They thought of the Pixie and the magic keys.

Jack and Jill ran to the little log house as fast as their legs could carry them. They opened the door and stood inside.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

As soon as they got inside they heard a merry voice call,

Ha, ha, ha, two, six, nine, five,  
You've come, sure as I'm alive!

"The Pixie, the Pixie," cried the children.  
"Where is he? Where is he?"

They heard the Pixie cry, "Ha, ha," but they could not find him.

"There must be some other door," said Jack.

"There must be a door to Santa Land," said Jill.

They looked everywhere for another door but they could not find one.

Their little fingers were cold and they shivered in the cold house. They were about to go home when a voice cried,

By the chimney look and see,  
There is a lock for every key.

Then Jack and Jill looked at the right of the chimney and, sure enough, there was a little keyhole.

Jill looked at the left of the chimney, and sure enough there was another little keyhole.

They fitted their keys into the keyholes and,

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

click, click, two little doors opened, and they stood in the Toy Country!

“Run, run,” said Jack. “We must find Old Santa Claus.”

So they ran through the streets of Toy Land and found all the toys alive.

The dolls looked out of the Toy House windows and said, “Oh, see the giants!”

The tin soldiers came out and stood in a circle about Jack and Jill.

The tin soldiers said, “You are our prisoners for a month and a day and half a year.”

“Oh, please let us go,” said Jill.

Jack said, “We really mean no harm; we are only looking for Santa Claus’ workshop.”

The tin soldiers said, “There is only one chance for you; we will not let you go unless you can say a rhyme backward.”

“What is the rhyme?” asked Jack and Jill.

The smallest tin soldier winked one eye and said,

Jack and Jill went up the hill  
To fetch a pail of water.

Then Jack and Jill laughed until they cried.

“Say it,” shouted the tin soldiers all at once.

# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



*A Paper Kite Floated Down*

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Then Jack and Jill said a few words but it was not a bit easy to say the lines backward.

“Say it right or we will fire,” said the tin soldiers.

I don’t know what Jack and Jill would have done, but just then a paper kite came floating down.

The string of the kite fell right into Jack’s hand.

On the kite that very rhyme was written backward.

Then the children recited it together and the tin soldiers called, “Forward, march!”

They marched away over the hill.

Jack and Jill ran after them laughing and shouting, “Which is the way to Santa Claus’ workshop; you did not tell us after all!”

Then the children asked other toys, but no one would tell them. The dogs began to bark and the dolls said, “Lock the children up in the Candy House!”

The children ran into the Candy House, not knowing where they were going, and a big wax doll locked them in.”

Then Jack began to eat one of the window

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

sills, it looked so good; and Jill began to eat a door knob!

“Oh, dear,” they said, “this candy is too sweet!”

Just then they looked at the chimney in the Candy House.

There were two little slippers stuck in the chimney.

Ha, ha, ha, pull me out,  
I'm stuck fast without a doubt!

called a shrill voice, and Jack and Jill looked up and saw the Pixie stuck fast in the chimney.

They took hold of him and pulled him down!

“Why do we find you so often in a chimney?” asked Jack.

Then the Pixie jumped head over heels and said,

I must practise it because,  
I go down the chimney for Santa Claus!

“Oh,” said Jack, “I often wondered why Santa Claus did not stick in the chimney.”

“He did stick once,” said the Pixie, “and Mrs. Santa Claus had to brush his hair and

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

beard for a week to get the soot all out. Now he sends me down the chimney."

"Where does Santa Claus stay while you fill the stockings?" asked Jill.

Upon the house top he will stay,  
Tucked so snugly in his sleigh,

said the Pixie. Then he winked slyly and said, "Why don't you talk in rhyme? It is much easier."

Then Jack and Jill told the Pixie about the verse they had to recite backward, and he laughed until he cried!

"I made the kite," said the Pixie, "and it was lucky for you that a Chinaman taught me to write backward."

Jack and Jill were sitting on a rug by the fire and, will you believe it, while the Pixie was talking their heads sank lower and lower and they fell asleep?

The Pixie went to one of the sugar windows and looked out. He was listening for the sound of sleigh bells.

Pretty soon he heard a sleigh.

"Tinkle, tinkle, tinkle," rang the bells.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

“Click, click,” sounded the reindeer hoofs.  
The Pixie put his fist through the window  
and made a little hole.

He called to Santa as the sleigh dashed by,

Oh Santa Claus, come take a peep  
At Jack and Jill, they're fast asleep.

Then in a minute the reindeer stopped, and  
Santa Claus, dressed in fur from top to toe,  
got out of the sleigh.

“What mischief are you up to now?” asked  
Santa Claus of the Pixie as he peeped in at  
the window.

“Jack and Jill wanted to visit you at home,”  
said the Pixie.

Santa Claus laughed until his big fat sides  
shook. He shook his head,

No, no, no, they can't see me,  
Such a thing could never be,  
he said.

The Pixie said,

Please take them a little way,  
Riding, Santa, in your sleigh.

Santa Claus replied.

You may take them round about.  
But they'll not find old Santa out!

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Then with a merry “Ha, ha,” old Santa jumped in his sleigh, and was off and away.

“Tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,” went the sleigh bells.

“Click, click, click,” went the reindeer hoofs.

Santa Claus was off and away.

The Pixie danced a funny little dance, then he curled up on the door mat and went to sleep.



## CHAPTER IX

NEXT morning the Pixie cried:

See the snow, heigho, heigho,  
To Santa Land we all will go,

Then Jack and Jill woke up and said, "Oh, Pixie, we are so hungry."

Then the Pixie said, "At your service, my dears; will you have rabbit ears or quail or toast?"

Jack and Jill laughed at this, and the Pixie brought in a little table and said, "Join hands now, everyone."

They all joined hands and danced about the table and cried out,

Coffee, butter, rice, corn cakes,  
Everything a fine cook makes.

As soon as they said the verse the table was loaded with nice things that children like to eat.

They all stood up by the table to eat, for they had no chairs.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

While they were eating the Pixie sang out,

See the snow, heigho, heigho,  
To Santa Land we all will go.

Then the Pixie looked hard at Jack and Jill and said, "Where are your mittens, Jack? Where are your rubbers, Jill?"

The children said, "We don't like to wear mittens and rubbers, so we left them home!"

"You want to be left in a snowdrift, do you?" said the Pixie. "Mittens and rubbers you must have, and no mistake."

The Pixie put his hands in his pockets and drew out two pairs of mittens.

"Those look like mine," said Jill.

"The other pair look like mine," said Jack.

"I know them, for there is a hole in one of them."

"Well, perhaps they are yours," said the Pixie. "I pick up lots of things in your house."

The Pixie went and got a long, black box. He said, "Carry the box and follow me."

The black box was as heavy as anything.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Jack and Jill tugged and pulled away but they could not move the box.

The Pixie touched a spring. The lid of the box flew open and Jack and Jill saw pairs and pairs of skates!

“Take a pair, quick,” said the Pixie.

Jack and Jill each took a pair of skates and the Pixie threw a pair over his shoulder.

“How can we skate in the snow?” asked Jack, but the Pixie only cried out,

Come this way,  
Without delay,

and he led the children out the back way and through a long passage. When they got out at last they found themselves upon an ice pond.

My, what fine skating they had! For miles and miles they skated, and then came to the edge of the woods, and there stood a sleigh waiting for them.

“Pile in quickly, under the robe,” said the Pixie, and the children just jumped in, skates and all.

It was soon night. Away, away, away they rode through the forest.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

The trees got thicker and thicker all the way.

"They are Christmas trees," said Jack.

"They all need candles and presents," said Jill.

The Pixie whispered, "What if old Santa Claus is not at home?"

On, on, on they went through the forest.

Once a sleigh dashed by them so fast they could not see who was in it.

At last they saw a little house in the distance and lights twinkled from every window.

"Take off your skates, take off your skates," said the Pixie. "I will give them back to you at Christmas time."

They took off their skates and got out of the sleigh and stood in front of the little house.

The Pixie said, "Climb up the tin pipe to the roof and then down the chimney!"

My, it was fun to go down the chimney! There sat Mrs. Santa Claus by the fireplace. She was knitting all kinds of mittens.

"Mercy me, who do I see?" she cried, holding up her hands.

The Pixie went up and whispered a word or two in her ear and Mrs. Santa Claus said,

# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



*The Pixie Shows Toyland to the Twins*

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

"The dear children, of course they may go to my cookie jar."

Then the Pixie took the children to the cookie jar and they ate cookies until they could eat no more.

Then the Pixie said, "You must follow me every minute, skipping along."

He led them up a staircase and down a staircase, and in and out of halls, and finally they got into a great hall where stood a million lighted Christmas trees.

"Hurry, hurry, don't stop," shouted the Pixie, and they ran into a hall where stood a million stockings full of toys.

"Hurry, hurry," said the Pixie again, and they came to a room full of dolls and toys and candy.

Jack ran up to an automobile and jumped in, and Jill ran up to a lovely doll.

The children stood very still.

"Ding, dong," rang a bell.

*The children woke up in their little beds at home!*

"How did we get here?" asked Jack.

"How did we get home?" asked Jill.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Jill said, "We were in Santa Claus' workshop. It was not a dream, was it?"

Jack said, "We could not have both had the same dream, I think."

By and by Jill laughed aloud. "I know, I know," she cried. "The Pixie said to keep running all the time and we stopped in the Toy Shop!"

Jack rubbed his sleepy eyes. "Mrs. Santa Claus makes fine cookies," he said.

The children dressed and they told their adventures at breakfast that morning.

Little Mary said, "May I go with you next time?"

Fred said, "You silly little goosies to believe in the Pixie; I found you asleep in the log house and brought you home!"

Just then a funny little laugh was heard.

Fred dropped his fork and all through breakfast he kept dropping things.

The Little Mother saw the children looked disappointed and she said, "It is best to believe in the Pixie near Christmas time; he might play a trick on you otherwise."

The children shouted and clapped their

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

hands and said, "Day after tomorrow is Christmas and Daddy is coming home, and Santa Claus is coming too, and we believe in the Pixie."

"I don't believe in the Pixie," said Fred.

He tripped on the rug and nearly fell as he left the room.

Jack and Jill and Mary went out to play.



## CHAPTER X

Merry, merry Christmas  
Comes but once a year,  
Santa brings us presents,  
Soon his bells you'll hear!

**I**T was Christmas Eve and all the children came in with their stockings.

"May we hang our stockings up now, Mother?" they asked.

Fred said, "I am really too big to hang up a stocking."

Then a little shrill laugh was heard and the children said, "The Pixie is here!"

The Little Mother said, "Better hurry and hang up all the stockings!"

So, the children hung their stockings by the fireplace, and then they said, "Tell us a story, please, Mother, do tell us a story!"

The children sat down in their little rocking chairs by the fireplace, and the Little Mother took out her knitting and sat down and then began to tell them a story.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

She said, "Once upon a time there were four children waiting for their Daddy to come home, and it was Christmas Eve."

At this very minute there came a thundering rap at the front door, and all the children clapped their hands and shouted, "Daddy has come home, Daddy has come home."

They all ran to the door, and there stood the expressman with a box.

The children were so excited that they danced up and down and said, "Perhaps Daddy is on his way, perhaps he will come soon!"

The Little Mother said they must put the box under the sofa and not open it until Christmas morning.

Then she began to rock and knit, and the children said, "Start the story all over again, please."

So the Little Mother said, "Children in the city and country are hanging up their stockings by the fireplace tonight, big stockings, little stockings, middle-sized stockings, red stockings, blue stockings, black stockings."

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Jack and Jill stood this as long as they could, then they cried, "Oh Ma, tell us a real story, please!"

At this very minute there was heard a thundering knock again on the front door.

The children all ran to the door as before, and there stood a beautiful Christmas tree.

There was no one in sight, so the children all tugged and pulled, and with Fred's help at last they got the tree inside.

"Where are the candles?" asked the twins.

"Where is the pop corn?" asked Fred.

"Where are the presents?" asked Little Mary.

"Santa Claus forgot to trim the tree I guess," said the Little Mother.

"Let me trim the tree," said Fred.

"Let us all trim the tree," shouted the children together.

The Little Mother got a great dish of pop corn and they all sat by the fire making pop corn chains.

They found a box of candles and some dolls.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



My, what fun they had trimming their own Christmas tree!

Every time Fred would put up a candle

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

the branch of the tree would sway so he could hardly fasten it on so that it would stay.

Some one whistled a merry tune, and the children said, "The Pixie is helping us."

"Please, can't we light just one candle?" begged the children.

Mamma said, "No, we will let Santa Claus have the fun of lighting them after a while."

Then the children said, "Do tell us a story."

The Little Mother said:

"Santa Claus is coming soon. He will leave his reindeer on the roof, you can imagine the patter, patter, patter of each tiny hoof!"

Just then the doorbell rang and the Little Mother said, "I will go this time."

There stood a boy with a yellow envelope in his hand.

The Little Mother opened the envelope and she laughed until she cried. She would not tell the children what she read. "Christmas secrets," she said, "Now scamper off to bed, and don't let the Pixie get you!"

Late that night the Little Mother sat by

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

the window. Do you think she was sitting up for Santa Claus?

About midnight a carriage drove up and out jumped a fat little man in fur from top to toe.

He carried parcels and packages and bundles.

He looked very much like Santa Claus.

The Little Mother ran out to meet him.

"Welcome home, Daddy," she said. "You are the best Christmas gift we can have."

Then Daddy came in and the Little Mother said:

"My, how many packages you brought!"

Daddy unfastened and took off his fur cap, and his fur overcoat, and he and the Little Mother sat and talked a long time.

Then they opened one package and took something shining and round and put in the toe of each stocking.

"We must go to bed," said Daddy, "or Santa Claus will be afraid to come in."

Then they sat a little longer plotting and planning how Daddy should surprise the children next day.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Daddy said, "I must have just a peep at the children tonight."

They took off their shoes and went upstairs on tiptoe. My, how the boards in that old staircase did creak!

"Hush, be careful," they both said, and they laughed like children.

Then that funny Daddy said, "If the children do wake up they will think I am Santa Claus, for they have not seen me for so long."

"You have grown a beard just like Santa Claus," the Little Mother said.

Then Daddy went in to see each of the children, and he leaned over each little bed and said softly, "I hope Santa Claus will bring you all fine presents. I hope he will not forget to come."

"He never forgets to come," said the Little Mother, and they went quietly to bed.

If there had been any one awake in the house they would have heard the "patter, patter," of little feet.

Could it have been the Pixie running round on his own business, I wonder?

## CHAPTER XI

Oh Santa is a jolly elf,  
Merrily sing heigho;  
He fills the stockings full himself,  
Merrily sing heigho.

**A**BOUT two hours after midnight another little fat man arrived.

He did not come to the door.

He did not ring the bell or make any noise!

He came down the chimney, of course, puffing and blowing, for it was very cold.

"It was a tight squeeze for me that time," he said.

Then he spied the bundles, and boxes, and parcels.

He went and felt the stockings. He found something in the toe of each one.

"Ho, ho, some one has been here before me," he said.

"Daddy has come home," cried a shrill little voice.

# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



*"Help me fill the Stockings," said Santa*

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

The Pixie was on hand, of course. He turned on an electric light, for he knew the ways of the house better than Santa Claus.

"Ah, Pixie, you gave me a scare that time. Now to work, young man, help me fill the stockings!" said Santa.

The Pixie was so full of fun he helped Santa untie his pack, and he jumped on his shoulder and whispered:

"Christmas time may come and go,  
I know what's in the stocking's toe."

Then the Pixie whispered a single word to Santa Claus, and Santa Claus said, "It was very thoughtful of Daddy, I am sure."

When Santa saw the tree half-trimmed he chuckled and laughed and said, "The children have been busy themselves."

Santa Claus put fine presents on the tree.

Then the Pixie said, "Take me for a ride in your sleigh, please take me for a ride in your sleigh!"

"Jump inside my pack then," said Santa Claus, "you are so little and the wind is so cold it will freeze you."

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

The Pixie crept inside Santa's pack, and soon he was whizzing up the chimney, safe on Santa's back.

"Tinkle, tinkle, tinkle," rang the bells, "patter, patter, patter," went the reindeer feet, and Santa Claus and the Pixie rode safely away over the snow.

Early next morning Jack and Jill were the first to wake up.

They scrambled out of bed and called, "Merry Christmas," "Merry Christmas," "Santa Claus has come."

Then all the children ran down stairs to see if Santa Claus had come.

Pretty soon a funny little man all dressed in fur from top to toe peeped out from behind the tree and called, "Merry Christmas! catch me, children, if you can."

Then the children ran after the fat little man, but he was too quick for them. He ran up stairs, and down stairs, and the children chased him all over the house.

At last the funny little man allowed himself to be caught, and he clasped the children in his arms.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Jack pulled off his wig and mask and shouted:

“You are our own dear Daddy, you are our own dear Daddy!”

Then Daddy said, “Go back upstairs and get into some clothes, quick, before Jack Frost gets you, then we will look at our presents.”

So the children got into their clothes, and they all ran down again and cried, “What a beautiful Christmas tree! Santa Claus put presents upon it for us!”

Then they all looked at the present Daddy had brought them, and they all looked at their stockings.

“I wonder what is in the toe,” said Jack and Jill, feeling their stockings.

The children all felt something small and hard in the toe of each stocking.

It takes a long time you know to get to the toe of a stocking, specially when it is brimful of presents.

Fred was the first to get to the toe of his stocking, and he drew out a little silver watch.

He held it up to his ear to see if it was really ticking.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

"We must get to the toe of our stockings," said Jack and Jill and Mary together.

When at last they got to the toe of their stockings they all found they had little silver watches with their initials upon them.

Now, the funny thing about these watches was, they all went well except Fred's.

Every few minutes Fred's watch would stop.

"It is very queer," said Daddy, "I got all the watches at the same place."

Then the children cried, "The Pixie has meddled with Fred's watch!" Then they had to tell Daddy all about the Pixie.

Pretty soon the children discovered that Daddy had given each one of them a traveling bag.

"What will we use these for?" asked the children.

Then Daddy said, "We are all going to take a trip soon. We are going to the Sunrise Land."

"That is Japan, Japan," cried Fred. (He had studied geography and he knew that Japan was called the Sunrise Land.)

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

"May we start at once?" cried the children.

Daddy said, "We may get caught in a blizzard before we get East."

"Oh," cried the children, "what fun—watches, and traveling bags, and a trip to Japan!"

The Little Mother said, "I think you have the best Daddy that ever lived!"

"Will the Pixie travel with us?" asked Jack and Jill.

Then everybody laughed.

Jack and Jill thought they heard the Pixie whisper.

They would not tell what it was.

I think the Pixie said he was going to have business for a while in Eskimo Land.



## CHAPTER XII

**I**T was snowing and blowing and snowing.  
“See the big blizzard,” said Bunny Cotton-tail.

Susan sat by the fireside nodding over her knitting.

Bunny Bright Eyes said, “Tell us a story, grandpa, please do!”

“Once, when I was young,” began Bunny Cotton-tail.

Susan shook her head and cried, “Bunny Cotton-tail, if you talk you know you will cough, I will tell the story.”

Then Bunny Bright Eyes took a stool and snuggled up beside Susan, ready to listen to the story.

Susan laid down her knitting and said, “There was once a Rabbit who did not like to work when she was little.”

“That was Susan,” said Bunny Bright Eyes. Susan looked at him hard over her spec-

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

tacles. "Now, I will have to begin all over again," she said.

"One day I did not want to sweep the floor, and I sat pouting on a stool in the kitchen. My mother looked in and said:

'If you believe in Pixie, dear,  
Sweep the floor, he may be near.'

I did not take the broom but sat scowling and looking out the window.

"Pretty soon a little brown head appeared at the window and a shrill voice cried:

'Pixie now must clean his feet  
If your house is nice and neat.'

Then I took the broom and swept the floor as fast as I could.

"My! how the dust did fly! I was in such a hurry to get the floor clean, so that the Pixie could come in.

"The Pixie came to the window and cried:

'Oh, Pixie is a merry elf,  
But see the dust upon the shelf.'

Then I took a duster and began to dust the shelves, and soon thought I had the kitchen very clean.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

“Then the Pixie peeped in again and said:

‘Wash the dishes, wipe them dry,  
And I will come in by and by.’

So I washed and wiped the dishes, and just then my mother came in. I think she scared the Pixie away.”

“What did your mother say?” asked Bunny Bright Eyes.

“My mother said, ‘Oh you naughty girl, wake up and do the sweeping I told you to!’”

“Oh, oh, so you fell asleep and it was all a dream,” said Bunny Bright Eyes, laughing.

Bunny Bright Eyes laughed so hard he rolled off his stool, but he said he was not hurt the least bit.

“Do you believe in Pixies, grandpa?” he said.

Bunny Cotton-tail nodded.

“Once, when I was young,” he said.

Susan cried, “No, no, Bunny, if you talk I will have to give you more cough syrup.”

Bunny Bright Eyes said over and over, “How I do wish I could see a Pixie. How I do wish I could see a Pixie!”

“If a Pixie came today he could never get

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

up our walk," said Susan. "See the big snow-drifts!"

Then Bunny Bright Eyes slipped quietly out of the room.

Now what do you suppose that cunning little fellow was going to do?

He put on his rubber boots and his fur cap and his coat and mittens.

Then he got a snow-shovel and hummed a merry little tune.

He began to shovel off the walk and sang:

Who is so merry, heigho, heigho,  
As a wee Bunny I know, I know,  
Pixie may come or Pixie may go,  
How I enjoy shovelling snow!

Somehow the snow did not seem nearly as heavy as usual, and when he got the path shovelled to the gate, he stooped down and saw something glittering in the snow.

Now, what do you suppose it was?

It was a new, bright penny!

Bunny Bright Eyes went whistling into the house.

"Oh grandma, see what I have found," he said, "oh grandpa, see what I have found!"

# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



*Bunny Bright Eyes Cleans the Walk*

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

"Once when I was young," began Bunny Cotton-tail. But Susan shook her head as before.

"Bless my buttons," she cried, "look at the snow on this youngster! Out into the hall this minute, or I cannot brush you off."

Then Bunny Bright Eyes went into the hall, and Susan got a broom and she brushed his coat and his boots, and soon he was as dry as ever.

Late that evening Bunny Bright Eyes said, "I hear the patter of little feet."

"Once, when I was young," began Bunny Cotton-tail.

"Visitors, in a big snow storm, that is absurd," said Susan.

"Tinkle, tinkle," rang the doorbell. It was a very faint ring indeed.

Bunny Bright Eyes went to the door.

He looked about but saw no one.

"I heard the bell ring," said Susan. "Go again and see if some one is there."

Bunny Bright Eyes went again, but he saw no one.

Just as soon as he sat down, "Tinkle, tin-

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

kle, tinkle," went the doorbell again. This time when he went he looked at the door handle and there hung a basket.

He took the basket inside.

He saw a card on the top of the basket, and he danced up and down and cried, "From the Pixie, from the Pixie."

Susan said, "The Pixie was here after all!"

Bunny looked at the card, and Susan looked at the card, and sure enough, it did say, "From the Pixie."

Then Bunny Cotton-tail said, "What is in the basket?"

He reached in and took out an apple, and Susan reached in and took out an orange, and Bunny Bright Eyes took out a pineapple.

They all were very merry indeed.

When Bunny Bright Eyes went to bed that night he dreamed about the Pixie.

He thought the Pixie came in and said, "I have come for the penny I lost. I must find my bright, new, penny."

Next morning when Bunny Bright Eyes woke up he looked under his pillow for the

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

new penny he had found, and he looked in his coat pocket, but the penny was gone!

"Oh, dear, I believe the Pixie was here again, and I did not see him after all," he cried.

Just then Susan called, "I borrowed your new penny, Bunny Bright Eyes, I borrowed it to pay the milkman."

Bunny Bright Eyes blinked very hard.

He was not sure whether he was awake or dreaming.

At just that minute a funny little fellow peeped in at the door and a shrill voice cried:

A Pixie always likes to tease,  
And change his shape, too, if you please,  
Of five-cent pieces I have many;  
So, I present to you this penny.

Then the Pixie rolled the penny on the floor.  
It rolled right to Bunny Bright Eyes.

"I will put the penny in the bank this time," he said.

He looked about to thank the Pixie, but he was gone.

## CHAPTER XIII

ONE day the wind blew from the east. When the wind blew from the east the Pixie felt cross. He said, "A storm is coming up, I feel it in my bones."

Then he began to whistle a little tune. He always whistled when he felt lonesome.

"I wonder what is the matter with me?" he said, "I just believe I will go and ask Grandpa Pixie."

What do you suppose that lonesome Pixie did next?

He put on his raincoat and his long rubber boots, and went away, away, away, over the hills and valleys until he came to the deep woods.

Then he sat down on a stone and cried twice over:

Open to me, open to me,  
I am a Pixie, as all can see

# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



CLARA POWERS WILSON

*The Cane Danced after the Pixie*

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

The grandpa Pixie, who lived underground, said:

Bring me a cane, strong and new,  
Before I open my door to you.

Then the Pixie knew it was no use talking, he must get the old grandpa a cane, or he would not let him come underground.

The Pixie rattled six new pennies in his pocket.

"I wonder who will sell me a cane for six pennies?" he said.

He went to the nearest store in the village and asked to buy a cane.

The clerk said, "I am sure you have not money enough to buy a cane, you are such a tiny fellow."

Then the strangest thing happened.

The Pixie touched the cane and it began to dance about the store.

The clerk was so frightened that he ran out of the store, and the Pixie followed him, and the cane danced after the Pixie.

Soon a crowd was running down street.

The Pixie said to himself, "How will I ever get rid of all these children?"

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

The cane cried out, "I can beat them, I can beat them all."

Then the cane ran after the children and began to beat them and they all ran quickly away.

Soon the Pixie and the cane were alone in the deep wood.

They came to the same stone as before, and the Pixie called:

Grandpa dear, the cane is found,  
May I now come underground?

The old grandpa replied:

I cannot hear quite all you said;  
Has it indeed a golden head?

Now the Pixie knew there was no use mincing matters when the old grandpa talked to him, so he took the cane and went into the nearest village, and cried to a jeweler:

Put a golden head, I say,  
On this cane, by break of day.

It was evening and the jeweler was in bed in his own house, but he dare not disobey the Pixie, so he got up and dressed, and went to his shop and put a gold head on the cane.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

The Pixie stood watching him and said:

When you're in trouble, call on me;  
I'll come, tho far across the sea.

The jeweler smiled and thanked the Pixie and he was gone.

This time when the Pixie came to the stone, he just rapped on the stone with the cane and it rolled away.

There was a hole and a little ladder leading under ground.

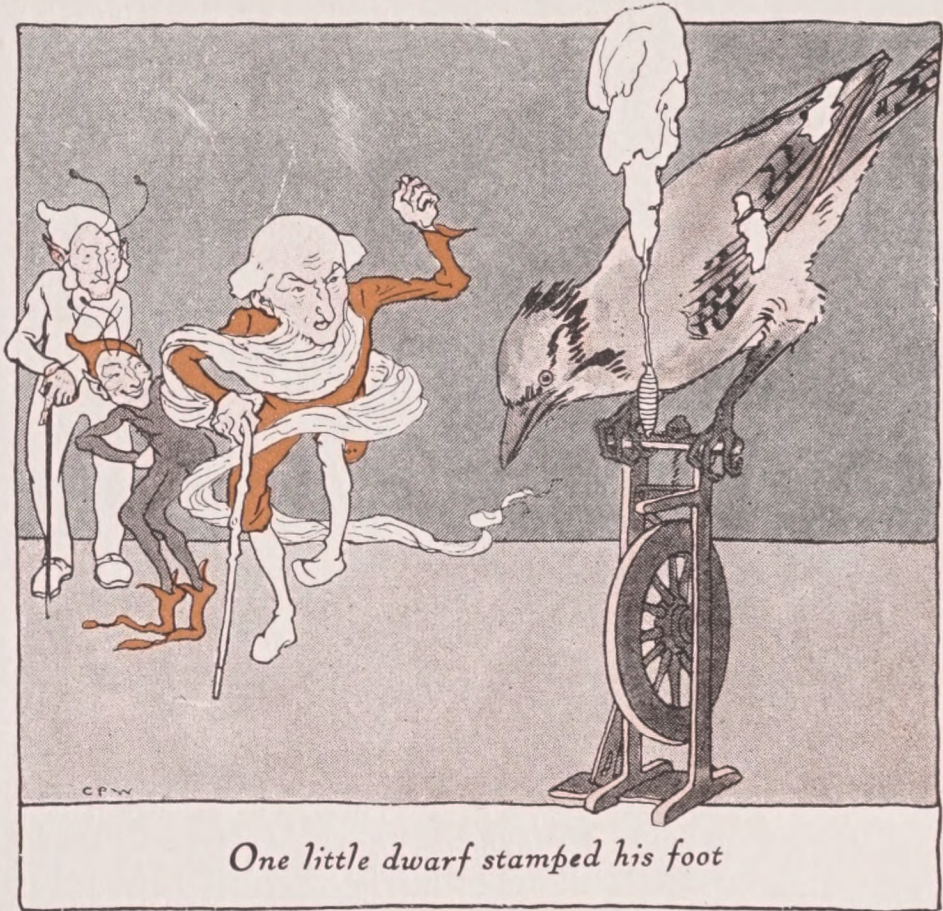
The Pixie went down the ladder, and the cane followed him, and walked right into the old gentleman's hand. Grandpa Pixie was so pleased he said:

Come with me, come and see,  
Many and many a mystery.

They went into a room where there were nineteen little dwarfs, all spinning cocoons for caterpillars; then they went into a room where there were nineteen little dwarfs all watering the roots of the thirsty flowers.

Then they went into a room where nineteen dwarfs were teaching birds to sing. The Pixie called out:

# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



I am a Pixie, ha, ha, ho, ho,  
How are the dwarfs, I'd like to know?

The nineteen dwarfs in this room shook  
their heads and replied:

We are not as happy as we look,  
For we do sadly need a cook.

The Pixie was kind hearted and he said:

I will remember what you say,  
And try to find a cook some day.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

One little dwarf stamped his foot and twirled his long beard round and round and cried:

I cannot teach this young bluejay  
To sing or recite a word I say.

At last the Pixie was tired and he and the old grandpa sat down on some leaves to rest.

The Pixie heaved a great sigh and the old grandpa said, "What is the matter with you?"

Just then there was a great rapping and tapping heard outside, and one of the little dwarfs put his head inside and said, "The Pixie is wanted at once at the jeweler's."

The Pixie remembered his promise to the jeweler, and he did not even stop to tell the old grandpa good-bye.

He ran to the jeweler's as fast as his legs would carry him.

The jeweler's shop was on fire!

Men were trying to put the fire out.

Then the Pixie sang at the top of his voice:

You are strong and bold, you can fight, I know,  
Brave are the firemen, brave, ho, ho!

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Then the firemen lifted the heavy hose and tried once more to put the fire out.

By and by the fire was all out.

"Who called us brave?" asked one of the firemen.

No one seemed to know it was the Pixie. The Pixie saw the fire was out and he ran back to the stone, calling:

Let me in, old Grandpa, do,  
The Pixie has come back to you.

The old grandpa cried:

How do I know it is really you,  
Unless you bring me a pumpkin or two?

The Pixie rubbed his eyes and thought, "Where can I get a pumpkin at this time of the year?"

He went back to town and looked in one cellar after another, and at last got a large yellow pumpkin.

It was all he could possibly move.

He went off with it, rolling it in front of him.

He cried when he reached the stone:

Open to me, open to me;  
I have a pumpkin, as you shall see.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Then the stone rolled aside and the old grandpa said:

Send the pumpkin down to me,  
Send it down where I can see.

This the Pixie did, and followed down the ladder. The nineteen little dwarfs from each room danced round and cried:

Who will make a pumpkin pie,  
Nineteen dwarfs here can but try.

They made so much noise that the old grandpa was angry. He waved his cane at them and cried out: "Off with you, off with you."

The nineteen little dwarfs ran off with the pumpkin. When all was still once more the old grandpa looked hard at the Pixie and then said:

"You are lonesome for the children."

The Pixie danced up and down, for now at last he knew what was the matter. He wanted to see Jack and Jill. He wanted to see Fred and Mary.

He said, "I will go to Japan. I will write to those dear children at once."

# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

He sat down and wrote this letter:

Dear Jack and Jill:—

I am so homesick for you all, I am coming  
to see you soon. You may be on the watch  
out for me,

Your friend,  
PIXIE.

Then the Pixie gave the letter into the  
hands of the nineteen little dwarfs to send.  
They made nineteen little bows and went out  
to carry the letter.

“The children will perhaps get that letter  
on St. Valentine’s Day,” said the old grandpa  
with a chuckle.

“That is not my fault,” said the Pixie, and  
he went away singing a merry tune.



## CHAPTER XIV

**I**T was the fourteenth of February.

Jack and Jill had many valentines.

Mary had valentines, too.

Fred had a comic valentine.

This valentine had a picture of a Pixie on it and the following verse:

Lazy bones, I've heard it said,  
Never likes to rise from bed,  
Lazy bones won't get ahead,  
And I've heard his name is Fred.

When Fred came in and read his valentine, the children clapped their hands with delight and said, "It is from the Pixie. It surely must be from the Pixie."

"How does he know I like to lie in bed?" asked Fred.

The Little Mother looked wise, and Daddy coughed three times. Daddy said, "I have something here in my pocket that may interest you all. It is from America!"

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

He pulled out an envelope.

"Open it, open it," shouted the children.

"Some one is playing a joke on you," said Fred. "I don't believe in the old Pixie."

*Then the oddest thing happened!*

Fred's chair tipped and he fell backward, but he was not hurt at all.

"I wish you could keep your chair down on four legs," said the Little Mother.

Daddy looked at Fred over his spectacles. "Don't say too much about the Pixie," he said, "for he might hear you!"

Then Daddy read the Pixie's letter. The children did not know whether it was a joke or not, but they went dancing out to play and they were happy all day thinking about their old friend the Pixie.

When supper time came Daddy said, "My business is done in Japan, we will go home tomorrow!"

"Oh, oh, oh," cried the children, "will we miss the Pixie? He was coming to see us, will we miss the Pixie?"

Daddy said, "Oh, don't worry about the Pixie, he can find us anywhere."

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

The Little Mother stood at the door, she did not come in to supper.

"Where can Fred be?" she asked.

The children said, "We have not seen him since noon."

Daddy said, "We had better eat our rice before it gets cold."

They sat down and ate their supper, and still Fred did not come.

Daddy put on his hat and went out to look for Fred.

The Little Mother was so anxious about Fred she took little Mary and went out to help look.

Jack and Jill sat alone in the house.

"What if the Pixie should come?" said Jack.

"What if the Pixie should come?" said Jill.

Just then they heard some one singing with a happy voice:

Over the waters deep and blue,  
I've traveled many a mile to you.

Jack and Jill ran to the door, but they could

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

see no one. Then they heard the same voice sing:

I've neither parasol or fan,  
To use in the Island of Japan.

Then they looked out the window, but they could see no one. Suddenly Jack and Jill turned around and looked behind the screen and there stood the Pixie!

He had his little hands behind him. He was dancing to and fro. He cried:

Which hand do you choose, which hand do you choose?  
If you choose wrong you will surely lose.

Jack said, "I choose the right hand."

Jill said, "I choose the left hand."

Then the Pixie sat down on the floor. He made Jack and Jill sit down with him.

He took from behind his back two little paper bags.

He opened first one bag, then the other.

He rolled a gumdrop to Jack and one to Jill.

He rolled the gumdrops just as if they were little balls.

"May we eat them?" asked Jack and Jill.

# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

The Pixie rolled his eyes in a comical way and replied, "No, they were made for pin cushions.

The children knew he was joking, so they ate the gumdrops. The Pixie rolled some more gumdrops out of the bag.

"Where have you been all this time?" asked Jack.

The Pixie replied:

To a little wee fellow all dressed in fur,  
I went one pleasant day;  
Just give a guess and nod your head,  
And then his name you'll say.

"You went to see Bunny Cotton-tail," shouted Jack and Jill together.

The Pixie nodded.

"Where else have you been?" asked Jill.

Then the Pixie said in a whisper:

To a little wee house underground,  
Where dwarfs and treasures all are found.

"Oh, oh," cried Jack and Jill, "did you go to see old Grandpa Pixie?"

The Pixie laughed and said, "The old Grandpa Pixie was in a good mood this time, and he did not bite my ears off!"

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Just then footsteps were heard outside.

"Don't go away," the children begged, "we will hide you behind a screen."

The Pixie slipped behind a screen.

There was a tap at the door and Jack and Jill went together.

There stood at the door a Japanese Girl. She left her shoes outside the door. She came inside. She bowed low and said, "Your honorable mother and sister will stay with me for the night, and they beg to know if your honorable brother is found."

Jack and Jill bowed low.

They had learned much politeness from the Japanese. They gave the Japanese girl a cup of tea and told her that Fred had not come home.

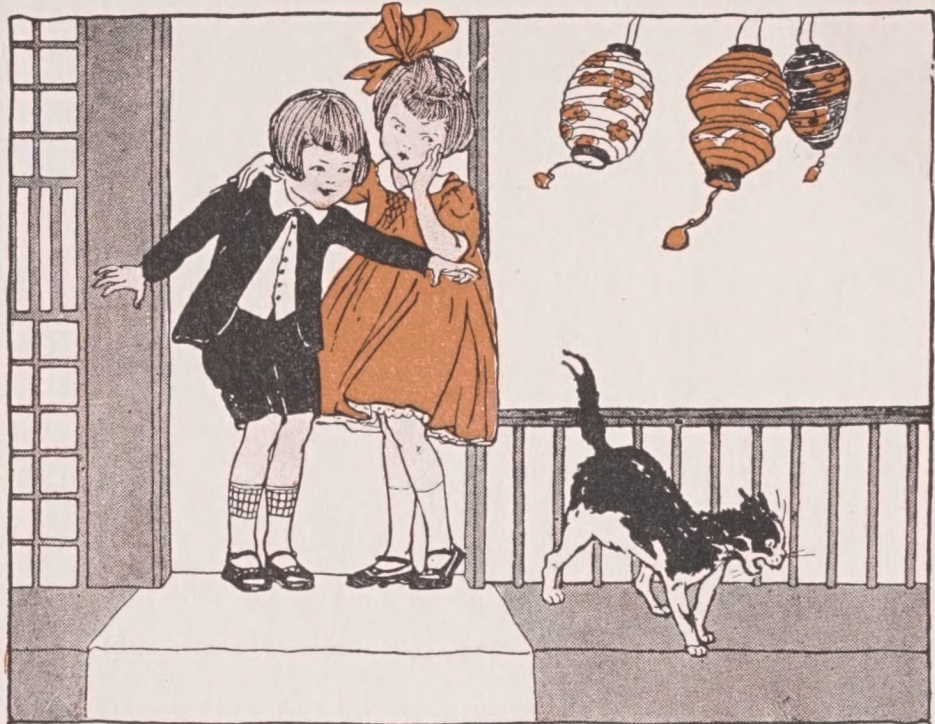
Then by and by the Japanese girl went home.

The Pixie peeped round the screen and said, "Is it safe for me to come out now?"

Just then a heavy footstep was heard and the children knew that their papa was coming home.

The Pixie hid behind the screen again.

# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



*"Did the Pixie turn into the black cat?"*

Papa said, "Has Fred come home?"

Before Jack or Jill had a chance to reply,  
a little voice said:

I have very often heard it said,  
That sometimes children are in bed.

Papa went to look, and there sure enough  
lay Fred in his own bed fast asleep. He had  
been away a while fishing.

The children called to the Pixie to come  
out, but as he did not do so they looked behind

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

the screen and saw only a large black cat licking its face.

"Where did you come from?" asked Jack.

The cat only said, "Meow," and ran to the door.

"She looks so fierce, we had better let her out," said Jill.

So they opened the door, and the cat ran outside.

"I wonder what could have become of the Pixie?" said Jack.

"I wonder if he could have turned into the black cat?" said Jill.

The children went to bed.

In the morning they found two little cookies under their pillows.

There were names on the cookies written in colored sugar.

On one cookie was the name, "Jack;" on the other was the name, "Jill."



## CHAPTER XV

NEXT day Papa said, "I have finished my work in Japan; we will sail away home."

Such a hurrying and scurrying as there was to get packed up.

At last the day came when they all went on board the ship to sail home.

The ship was called the *America*.

The children stood on deck and waved their handkerchiefs and shouted "Good-bye, good-bye," to the little Japs on shore.

Did the children have a good time on the ship? Well, I guess they did. They ran races on deck and they went into the cabin and the Captain told them stories.

At last the *America* arrived in port and every one was glad to get home.

When they came to their own house the Little Mother said, "Gracious, I forgot to tell the cook to be here!"

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Papa said, "Dear me, I cannot find the door key!"

Fred said, "I will climb in one of the windows," but it seemed that all the windows were locked.

Then Jack and Jill and little Mary cried, "Oh, what fun; we cannot get into our own house!"

They sat down on Fred's suit case and waited.

Papa and Little Mother and Fred went round to the back of the house to try to get in.

Just then a shrill voice cried:

Close your eyes and soon you'll see,  
What can be done with a little key;  
Open when I say one, two, three,  
Turn in the lock, oh, little key.

The children did as they were told. They closed their eyes until the Pixie called out, "one, two, three," then they opened their eyes.

The Pixie was nowhere to be seen, but the front door stood wide open!

"How did it get open?" asked Papa and the Little Mother.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

“Perhaps it was the Pixie,” suggested Fred.  
Papa said, “I will make a fire.”

The Little Mother said, “I will get us a fine meal.”

The children were so glad to get home they ran all over the house.

Soon they had a fine meal ready, and every one was hungry you may be sure.

When evening came they all went to bed early.

Jack and Jill were not as sleepy as the rest.

They lay awake and talked in whispers.

“Do you suppose the Pixie is in the house?”

“Do you suppose he will come?”

By and by they heard a voice say:

Will you travel on land or sea,  
The Pixie is here and he is free.

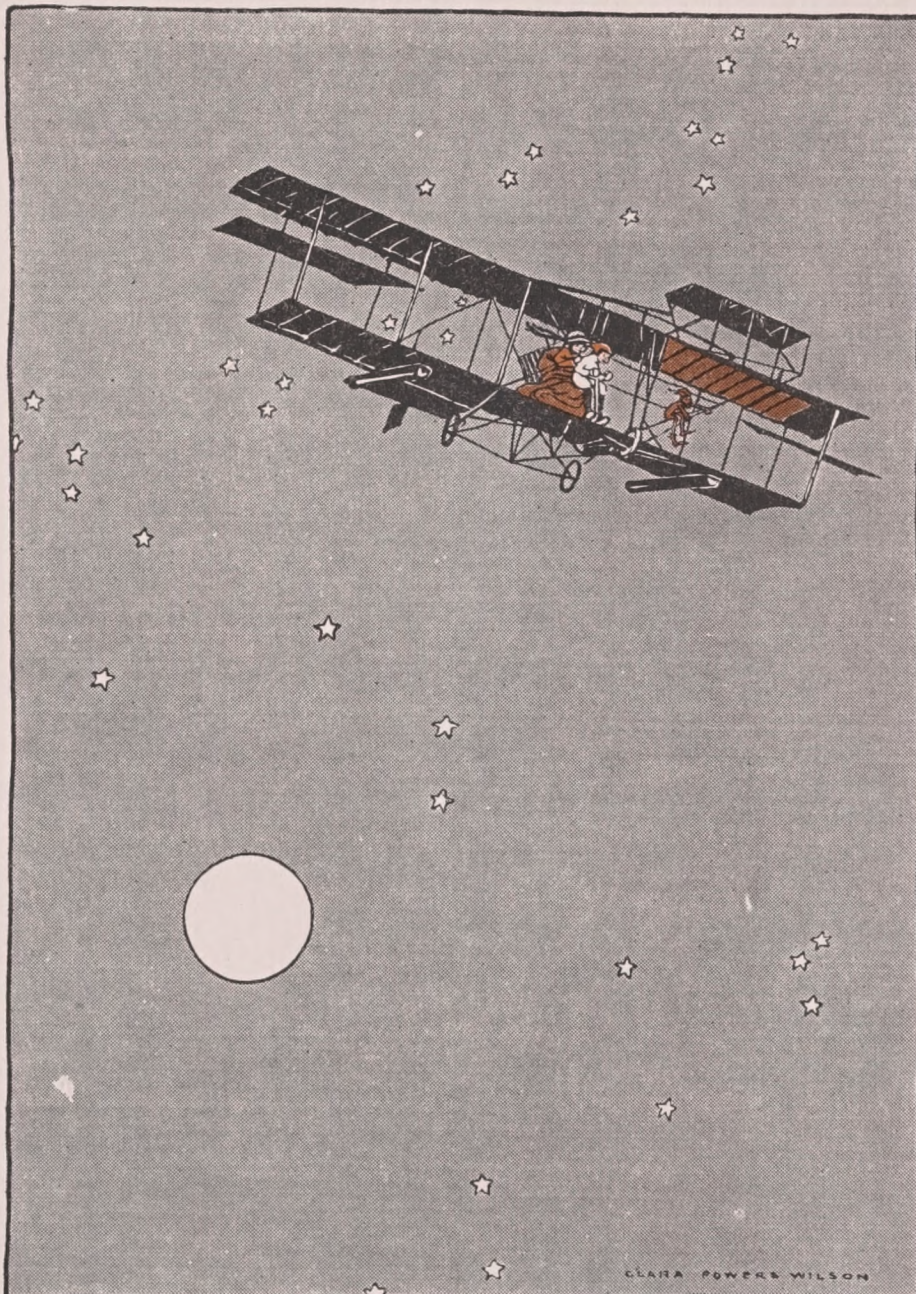
“Why, hello, were you ever a prisoner?”  
asked Jack and Jill.

The Pixie made his best bow and said:

I can't talk nonsense all the time,  
I just said that to make words rhyme.

Jack and Jill said, “We are not one speck tired, take us somewhere tonight, please.”

# THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



*They Sailed Away in the Airship*

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

The Pixie said, "Hurry up and I will take you right along, if you will throw on these little capes."

Then Jack put on a green cape that the Pixie handed him, and Jill put on a green cape the Pixie handed her, and they stepped out the window and climbed down a tree. Then the Pixie said:

On an adventure we are bound,  
Be careful not to make a sound.

The Pixie called an airship and they all got into it and sailed away and away and away!

Suddenly the airship began to sink down, down, down, and, will you believe it? it never stopped until they were way down underground!

The King of the Underground World cried out sleepily, "Who comes here, at this time of year?"

The Pixie said:

I've brought you flowers, if you please,  
And they resemble little trees.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

Jack and Jill bowed low, and the Pixie whispered, "Stand still, if you please." He waved his magic wand and the King fell fast asleep."

"We shall have to hurry for he may awake," said the Pixie. "Off now to the treasure-room."

Outside the treasure-room sat an old witch. When the Pixie asked her to open the door for him she said:

I do not care to let you in,  
You are too fat or else too thin.

The Pixie just waved his magic wand and the old witch fell asleep. The old witch said as she fell asleep:

You may laugh and shout,  
But you can't get out.

The Pixie followed the children inside the treasure-room.

Jack and Jill clapped their hands with delight.

There were ninety million necklaces, and fifty million gold watches, and forty million

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

bracelets, and sixty million rings in the treasure-room.

The children had never seen such treasures in all their lives.

"Help yourselves," said the Pixie, "we can stay here a quarter of an hour."

Then Jack and Jill filled the pockets of their capes with jewels until they could hold no more.

"Time is up," said the Pixie. He went to the door. It was locked and would not open. The Pixie shouted to the witch outside:

"Open up the door old witch or I will drown you!"

The Witch said sleepily:

I am perfectly willing to let you shout,  
But I think I'll never let you out.

They were wondering what to do, when the King woke up and cried out for something to eat. He beat his servants and walked down to the treasure-room. He heard the Pixie then shout at the top of his lungs:

Open the door and let me out,  
I'll cook for you without a doubt.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE



Then the King beat the old Witch and made her open the door, and the Pixie and Jack and Jill ran out, and they ran by the King so fast he could not say a word.

They ran this way, and that way, and were soon at the door of the cave.

There stood the airship outside waiting for them.

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

They could hear the patter, patter, patter of the King's feet after them.

Whisk, bound, they got up a ladder and were in the airship off and away.

The Pixie said:

That was a narrow escape, I suppose ;  
I was scared from my heels to the tip of my nose.

Somehow the air made Jack and Jill so sleepy they could not keep their eyes open.

They knew nothing more that happened until next morning they awoke under their own cherry tree at home!

The Little Mother listened to their story and cried, "You darling twins, did you walk in your sleep?"

"Did you take any cold? How did you get out of the window without falling?" asked Papa.

Fred said, "Where did you get your funny capes?"

The children said, "The pockets are full of jewels, but they looked in the pockets of the capes and found them quite empty.

The Little Mother said, "I will put a screen

## THE PIXIE IN THE HOUSE

at the window and open it only from the top. We cannot have Jack and Jill walk in their sleep."

The children were afraid when night time came that the Pixie could not get in, but just as they were falling asleep they saw a familiar little face and a voice cried:

Good folks may try without a doubt,  
To keep a jolly Pixie out,  
But as long as you're merry and do not tease,  
I will creep in whenever I please.

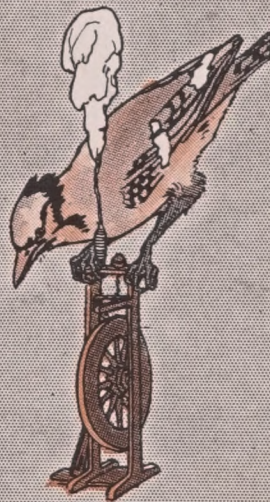
I wonder where Jack and Jill went with the Pixie next time? I do not know, for I forgot to ask them.











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